

Waterside Art Group mid-Winter Newsletter 2023

Dear members

Your committee and I are very pleased (as I am sure you are) that our group has been running so smoothly during the year. The disturbance of the earlier years is behind us, and it has been a real pleasure to welcome new members who have all immersed themselves in the group. We have a membership of 34 this year, and the number coming on Tuesday evenings is typically between 15 and 20. Unlike many art groups, our prime activity is actually painting on Tuesday evenings - as well, of course, as the sharing of ideas and general socialising with fellow artists. But we have varied our programme through the year with John Edwards' well-received critique in the spring, Alan Langford's workshop, Soraya French's inspiring demonstration (proving that quality and not quantity of demos is what counts) and a couple of still life sessions.



Soraya's multi-media demonstration

Of course, our major activity in the year is our Summer Exhibition. This year's was no exception and our plan to open on the first Saturday was very attractive to visitors. This, plus partaking in Hampshire Open Studios (HOS), certainly boosted numbers. Your committee has agreed that we will hold an exhibition next year and, once again, will take part in HOS.

Our secretary Andrew will be organising another John Edwards' critique in the spring and we will schedule in some (optional) still-life sessions. At the AGM we will seek ideas for holding a Saturday workshop. These are self-funding providing we have sufficient interest. Demonstrations are a different matter and the cost of these is significant. We were very fortunate that the cost of Soraya French was defrayed by a generous donation from a WAG supporter.

The subject of finance brings me to an important matter. We have been fortunate in recent years that the sales of our calendars has subsidised our (mainly rental) costs. Of course, with the passage of time, we are draining this resource. We raised our annual subscription this year and warned that as our balance decreases, we will have to raise the subscription on a regular basis to maintain a sensible balance. Therefore we will be raising the subscription by £5.00 for 2024. This will take it up to £45.00 (plus the Community Centre subscription of £5.00) This represents excellent value and equates to about £1.00 a week for regular attendees.

As we head towards Christmas I would like to remind you of the Christmas meal that Kate is kindly arranging for us on **12th December at the Boathouse Restaurant** at Hythe Marina. It is not too late to book with her - partners are very welcome.

We hope that you will attend our **AGM on 30th January** to hear a review of 2023 and look forward to our 2024 programme. Remember that the AGM commences at 7.30 to allow for those who are working. At this meeting we elect the committee for the new year. If you would like to propose any existing or new committee members please do so on the proposal form that is on the "booking in" table on Tuesday evenings. Remember that you need the agreement of those you propose.

As information about our activities becomes available it will be published in our comprehensive website **www.watersideartgroup.co.uk**.

We wish you and yours a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful 2024.

Kind regards

Peter

Chairman Waterside Art Group